

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A network device managing apparatus comprising:
 - receiving means for receiving a search request of network devices and identification information from a data processing apparatus;
 - list forming means for forming a list of the network devices;
 - holding means for holding the identification information received by said receiving means and the list formed by said list forming means in association with each other;
 - extracting means for, if the search request and the identification information are received by said receiving means, comparing the list held by said holding means in association with said identification information with the list formed by said list forming means after said search request was received by said receiving means and extracting network devices which have newly been found;
 - data forming means for forming data which emphasizes the network devices extracted by said extracting means and which is used to display the list of the network devices; and
 - data transmitting means for transmitting the data formed by said data forming means to said data processing apparatus.
2. A network device managing apparatus which can communicate with network devices and a data processing apparatus, comprising:
 - receiving means for receiving a state request of the network devices and identification information from said data processing apparatus;
 - list forming means for obtaining a state of each of said network devices and forming a list showing the states of the network devices;
 - holding means for holding the identification information received by said receiving means and the list formed by said list forming means in association with each other;
 - extracting means for, if the state request and the identification information are received by said receiving means, comparing the list

held by said holding means in association with said identification information with the list formed by said list forming means after said state request was received by said receiving means and extracting network devices whose states have been changed;

data forming means for forming data which emphasizes the network devices extracted by said extracting means and which is used to display the list showing the states of the network devices; and

data transmitting means for transmitting the data formed by said data forming means to said data processing apparatus.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said list indicates at least one of information regarding whether printing is possible or not and an error state.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data formed by said data forming means includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data formed by said data forming means includes instruction data for allowing a device icon of the data processing apparatus to be displayed in an updated state.

6. A method comprising:
a first receiving step of receiving a request and identification information from a data processing apparatus;
a first list forming step of forming a list of network devices in accordance with the request received in said first receiving step;
a holding step of holding the identification information received in said first receiving step and the list formed in said first list forming step in association with each other;
a second receiving step of receiving a request and identification information from the data processing apparatus;

a second list forming step of forming a list of network devices in accordance with the request received in said second receiving step;

a comparing step of comparing the list held in association with the same identification information as the identification information received in said second receiving step with the list formed in said second list forming step in order to extract network devices which have newly been found;

a data forming step of forming data which emphasizes the newly found network devices and which is used to display the list of the network devices; and

a data transmitting step of transmitting the data formed in said data forming step to said data processing apparatus.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the data formed in said data forming step includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

8. A method according to claim 6, wherein the data formed in said data forming step includes instruction data for allowing a device icon of the data processing apparatus to be displayed in an updated state.

9. A method comprising:

a first receiving step of receiving a request and identification information from a data processing apparatus;

a first list forming step of forming a list showing states of network devices in accordance with the request received in said first receiving step;

a holding step of holding the identification information received in said first receiving step and the list formed in said first list forming step in association with each other;

a second receiving step of receiving a request and identification information from the data processing apparatus;

a second list forming step of forming a list showing states of network devices in accordance with the request received in said second receiving step;

a comparing step of comparing the list held in association with the same identification information as the identification information received in said second receiving step with the list formed in said second list forming step in order to extract network devices whose states have been changed;

a data forming step of forming data which emphasizes the state-changed network devices and which is used to display the list showing the states of the network devices; and

a data transmitting step of transmitting the data formed in said data forming step to said data processing apparatus.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said list indicates at least one of information regarding whether printing is possible or not and an error state.

11. A method according to claim 9, wherein the data formed in said data forming step includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

12. A program for controlling a computer so as to execute:
a first receiving step of receiving a request and identification information from a data processing apparatus;
a first list forming step of forming a list of network devices in accordance with the request received in said first receiving step;
a holding step of holding the identification information received in said first receiving step and the list formed in said first list forming step in association with each other;
a second receiving step of receiving a request and identification information from the data processing apparatus;

a second list forming step of forming a list of network devices in accordance with the request received in said second receiving step;

a comparing step of comparing the list held in association with the same identification information as the identification information received in said second receiving step with the list formed in said second list forming step in order to extract network devices which have newly been found;

a data forming step of forming data which emphasizes the newly found network devices and which is used to display the list of the network devices;
and

a data transmitting step of transmitting the data formed in said data forming step to said data processing apparatus.

13. A program for controlling a computer so as to execute:

a first receiving step of receiving a request and identification information from a data processing apparatus;

a first list forming step of forming a list showing states of network devices in accordance with the request received in said first receiving step;

a holding step of holding the identification information received in said first receiving step and the list formed in said first list forming step in association with each other;

a second receiving step of receiving a request and identification information from the data processing apparatus;

a second list forming step of forming a list showing states of network devices in accordance with the request received in said second receiving step;

a comparing step of comparing the list held in association with the same identification information as the identification information received in said second receiving step with the list formed in said second list forming step in order to extract network devices whose states have been changed;

a data forming step of forming data which emphasizes the state-changed network devices and which is used to display the list showing the states of the network devices; and

a data transmitting step of transmitting the data formed in said data forming step to said data processing apparatus.